

PLEASE RESPOND BY SEPTEMBER 1ST

**Draft Preliminary Recommendations From the Maine CDC on
Revisions to the LHO System and a Survey of LHOs on These Recommendations**

Local Health Officer Contact Information (Please print clearly)

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____

County: _____
E-Mail Address: _____
Work Phone #: _____ Home Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____
Employment: _____
Title: _____

1. Update LHO Statute (with the goal of narrowing LHO functions)

- Desired Outcome
*LHO statute updated with narrower focus on governmental functions related to **controlling** public health nuisances (a type of environmental health threat), infectious diseases, and public health emergencies.*
- Why?
 - ~ Some statutes governing LHOs are completely redundant with other statutes, including some governing social services, CEOs (Code Enforcement Officers) and ACOs (Animal Control Officers).
 - ~ 26 LHO statutory functions lack any focus and are considered too broad to effectively recruit and train LHOs.
- What?
 - ~ Undertake review of LHO statute with comparisons to statutes governing other local government officials (CEO and ACO) and state agencies.
 - ~ Identify those LHO statutory functions that have significant overlap with other statutory entities and that for functional reasons (to improve functional efficiency, cost effectiveness, etc.) may be considered for being moved to another entity.
 - ~ Work with Maine Municipal Association, Public Health Work Group, and other stakeholder organizations for input to possible changes.

Do you agree with updating the LHO statutes? (circle one)

YES or NO or UNSURE

Please explain any changes you would make to the proposal above for updating the LHO statutes.

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2. Strengthen LHO System

- Desired Outcome:
A trained and networked LHO workforce.
- Why?
 - ~ Many public health nuisances and some infectious disease control strategies (quarantine, social distancing) need a local community authority.
 - ~ A LHO System also provides a linkage between state public health and every local municipality.
- What?
 - ~ With narrower focus (from updated LHO statute), Maine CDC to provide regular regional trainings to LHOs.
 - ~ Maine CDC to set up communication network for LHOs, including possible list serve, regular regional meetings, web site with updated manual and other resources.

Do you agree with Maine CDC providing more regular and regional trainings for LHOs?
(circle one)

YES or NO or UNSURE

Do you believe trainings should be mandatory for LHOs? (circle one)

YES or NO or UNSURE

If yes, please provide ideas on the acceptable parameters (frequency, etc.):

Do you agree with Maine CDC setting up a communication network for LHOs, to improve linkages among LHOs, Maine CDC, and other government agencies? Examples include a web site and list serve. (circle one)

YES or NO or UNSURE

Please explain any changes you would make to the proposal above for strengthening the training and communication for LHOs:

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3. State and Regional Support for LHO System

- Desired Outcome:
Maine CDC identifies “go-to” staff to provide assistance to LHOs, including Regional Nurse Epidemiologists and a central staff person.
- Why?
 - ~ LHOs expressed the need for regional and/or state professional public health assistance.
 - ~ A number of LHOs also stated strong concerns about not creating a bureaucratic layer between state agencies and LHOs.
- What?
 - ~ Maine CDC to identify an Augusta-based staff person to assist LHOs, especially with environmental health (nuisance) issues.
 - ~ Maine CDC Regional Nurse Epidemiologists (Regional Epi) to provide support to LHOs, especially with a focus on infectious disease issues.
 - ~ Examples of possible Regional Epi support for LHOs:
 - Liaison between LHOs and Maine CDC and other state agency staff, including Public Health Nurses and Health Inspectors
 - Provide clinical and public health professional support to LHOs
 - Provide some current LHO functions such as outbreak investigations and disease reporting (Regional Epi currently do this)
 - Work with EMA Directors and LHOs on public health emergency preparedness

Do you agree with Maine CDC providing a “go-to” person for LHOs within the agency? (circle one)

YES or NO or UNSURE

Do you agree with the Maine CDC’s regional nurse epidemiologists providing regional support to LHOs on issues related to infectious disease control? (circle one)

YES or NO or UNSURE

Please explain any changes you would make to the proposal above for strengthening Maine CDC support for LHOs:

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4. Linkages between LHO System and Comprehensive Community Health Coalitions

LD 1614, enacted this year, directs the Public Health Work Group to set core competencies and standards for comprehensive community health coalitions. Currently, many community health coalitions are funded by various state grants (such as the Healthy Maine Partnership funds) to convene relevant partners in the community on specific health issues, to do health promotion/public health education in the community on these health issues, and to do some community health assessments.

Some have suggested assuring the LHO system is linked with the proposed statewide network of comprehensive community health coalitions.

Please indicate below what kinds of linkages you feel are appropriate. (Circle one for each suggestion)

Local Comprehensive Community Health Coalition to:

- | | | | |
|--|-----|----|--------|
| • Host regional LHO trainings (trainings put on by Maine CDC) | Yes | No | Unsure |
| • Maintain updated list and contact info for LHOs in the region | Yes | No | Unsure |
| • Assure LHOs sit on coalition board or committees | Yes | No | Unsure |
| • Assure LHOs participate in developing or implementing health promotion activities relevant to LHO issues (environmental nuisances and infectious disease issues) | Yes | No | Unsure |
| • Assure LHOs participate in community health assessments | Yes | No | Unsure |

Please explain any ideas you have for assuring linkages between the LHO system (that is focused on infectious disease and environmental nuisance control) and a possible network of comprehensive community health coalitions (that are focused on community health assessments, convening relevant partners on health issues, and implementing health promotion activities):

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5. Linkages Between LHO System and Emergency Management and Homeland Security

The Homeland Security Task Force, a legislatively-directed task force, is interested in learning how the LHO System can assist in homeland security-related issues.

What roles or linkages do you see appropriate for LHOs in homeland security?

What linkages do you see as appropriate between LHOs and local and county emergency management agencies?

Please feel free to attach additional sheets, if needed